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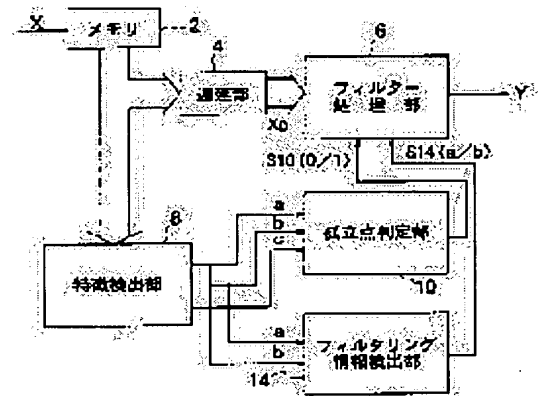
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(54) FILTER CIRCUIT

(57)Abstract:

PURPOSE: To provide a filter holding the property of an edge part, for example, a median filter processing circuit.

CONSTITUTION: The filter circuit is provided with a filter processing part 6 having a median filter processing part where the intermediate value of picture data at three points is taken as the filter output, a feature detecting part 8 which extracts features of picture data, an isolated point discriminating part 10 which detects noise (isolated point) from the feature extraction result, and an edge direction signal S14 which discriminates an edge part in accordance with the feature extraction result. The filter processing part 6 performs the median filter processing only when an isolated point discrimination output signal S10 from the isolated point discriminating part 10 indicates an isolated point, and interpolated picture data dependent upon the edge direction indicated by the edge direction signal S14 and/or optimum edge strength estimating picture data is used to perform the median filter processing.



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